

The staple crops of the county are cotton, wheat and corn; and tobacco has been successfully tested as a profitable addition. Fruits, and especially the grape, succeed well. On the Catawba bottoms are some fine tomato and melon farms. Grasses grow well, and there are two or three excellent dairy farms in the county.

Gaston county has 223,250 acres of land, valued at \$1,826,609, and 705 town lots, valued at \$330,507.

Of domestic animals there are—horses, 1,482; mules, 2,153; cattle, 6,122; hogs, 8,685; sheep, 2,618.

Product of taxation—for State uses, \$7,422.36; pensions, \$1,367.36; schools, \$11,405.87; county, \$9,699.32.

Population—white, 12,926; colored, 4,837; total, 17,754.

GATES.

Gates county lies between the Chowan river and the Dismal swamp, of which it includes a considerable section. The body of the county consists of level piny uplands, with a sandy loam soil. It has a narrow strip of very sandy long-leaf pine land near the Chowan river and also in the southeastern corner of the county. Along the Chowan river and its tributaries are tracts of cypress swamp from one to two and three miles wide. Near the smaller streams are narrow tracts of pine and oak flats, having a gray-clay loam soil. Marl is found in the banks of the Chowan river and in the southern end of the county.

The Blackwater river (lower down assuming the name of Chowan,) flowing along the western border, a deep, tortuous but navigable stream, used by steamboats of considerable size as high up as Franklin, Va., has added greatly to the business, convenience and profit of the inhabitants, but the construction of a railroad across the county, forming other and speedier connections, has diminished its importance.

The Norfolk and Carolina railroad runs through the western part of the county.

The products of the county are those of the section—cotton, corn, wheat, peas, potatoes, etc.; and an increased inducement to truck farming tends to give new character to the agriculture of the county.

There is large attention given to timber, lumber, shingles and staves.

Gatesville, the county seat, is a village of three hundred inhabitants. The village of Sunbury, ten miles east of Gatesville, on the Suffolk and Carolina railroad, is a thriving little place, with schools, churches, and lumber and grist mills. It is surrounded by good trucking lands.

Gates county contains 209,408 acres of land, valued at \$664,325, and 72 town lots, valued at \$33,080.

Of domestic animals there are 1,501 horses; 599 mules; 778 goats; 6,005 cattle; 16,248 hogs; 2,200 sheep.

Product of taxation—for State use, \$2,403.70; pensions, \$509.30; schools, \$4,611.68; county, \$3,669.66.

Population—white, 5,539; colored, 4,713; total, 10,252.